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A LETTER

Sent to the Right Honourable *William Lenthall*, Esquire, Speaker to the Honourable House of Commons:

Concerning the raising of the Siege of

TAVNTON

by the Parliaments Forces.

By a worthy Gentleman in Sir *Thomas Fairfax* his Army.

Ordered by the Commons Assembled in Parliament, that this Letter be forthwith Printed and Published. H:Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

LONDON,
Printed for *Edward Husbands* Printer to the Honourable House of Commons, July 10. 1645.

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To the Honorable *William Lenthall* Speaker of the Honourable Houſe of Commons.

SIR,

I Writ to you yeſterday, of *Gorings* Advance againſt *Taunton*, after he had drawn off as far as *Black Down* which he did in hopes our men would have drawn out and engaged; but ſeeing himſelf beguiled in his deſign, he returned again, had hot skirmiſhes; but our forces gave him entertainment, and killed abundance of his men: And on *Thurſday* noon, drew off again, facing the Town till night, and Quartered on Fryday night at *Ilmiſter*: The Generall Advanced on Fryday to *Beuminſter*, twelve miles from *Dorcheſter*, his Horſe into *Crookhorne*. where we fell on the Enemy, took a Lieutenant, and divers other of Sir *Rob: Welches* troop, being on their Rear; we ſent another party between *Sherborn* and *Somerton*, and fell on their Van, and took ſome Priſoners there alſo: This ſo Alarumed the Enemy, that they broke down their bridges. There are three Regiments of Horſe, and ſix hundred Dragoones in

purſuit of them, and to bring intelligence of their motion: Our poor Foot (being impatient of the Relief of their friends at *Taunton*) Marched ſixty two miles in five dayes, and offered at *Dorcheſter*, after twelve miles march that day, to march all that night to Relieve *Taunton*, hearing that *Goring* was fallen on again; as yet none of our friends in the Town is come to us; we expect them this day about noon: and then a Generall Councel of War being called, there will be a reſolution taken, how to order our marches after the Enemy, with ſecurity to the Weſt: But our poor foot muſt a while refreſh themſelves, before they move, and our Horſe are yet in no condition to follow farre: I cannot, in this Letter, tell you of the ſtraights of the Town, or any other particular; but that the Enemy hath left the Siege, and our friends at liberty (the Lord be praiſed for it) though this be a ſervice of great concernment to the Kingdom, and the Weſt in particular; yet I account the quieting of the Club-men, and the reputation our Army hath with them by relieving this Town, and marching quietly through their Country, and making the Enemy flie, is of more concernment, then at firſt is apprehended; one *Holles* the violent Ringleader of the Club men, came to *Dorcheſter* with 4 others from the Clnbmen, for leave to Petition the Parliament; he was moſt peremptory and inſolent in his Carriage, and but for his being ſent as a Meſſenger, he had been committed, as this man is the head of that giddy head faction in *Dorſetſhire*, ſo his Brother for *Wiltſhire*; fellows that delude the poor Country-men: whom I hope we ſhall undeceive before we return, and ſome

ſtay

ſtay we muſt make to ſalve that ſore, for it is not yet half cured: The Club-men fell upon *Goodale*, Colonell *Pindars* Meſſenger, took his Letters to the Generall from him, his horſe and Armes; the Governour of *Lime* fell upon them, and killed eighty of them, they dared him to fight; the Governour of *Lime* is hurt, and the Mayor was unhorſed; this was on *Thurſday* laſt.

From the Lady Strodes *Houſe, neer* Beuminſter
July the 5. Saturday, *five in the morning.*

THe Meſſenger not being gone, I thought fit to adde that the Army is marched this day to *Crookhorn*, where the Generall now is, and hath met with a Letter from Colonell *Weldon*, of the liberty they now are in: many wounded, and driven to great extremities, eſpecially for Ammunition: There is a ſecond and third Reſerve of Horſe and Dragoones gone after the firſt party, to fall on the Rear of the Enemy: News is come, they are neer engagement, the iſſue I know not: Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell* is gone in perſon, to take care of the mannagement of the purſuit; our Horſe are harraſſed out, yet go after the Enemy cheerfully: we hear nothing of the Treaſure, which will prove much to our prejudice; for now the Souldier will live on free Quarter, and diſcontent the Country. If ever an Army deſerved to be truſted with a fortnights Pay before hand, this doth; for they never preſſe for money, till they be extreamly neceſſitated, and in arrear.

Crookhorn, *July* 5. 1645.
two in the afternoon.

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THe Meſſenger ſtaying till the Generall returned from the party that purſued *Gering*, I may adde this, That our Horſe purſued them to the Bridge called *Load* bridge, which the Enemy broke down, and made good againſt our Horſe, having a ſtrong Breaſt-work raiſed. The Generall inſtantly Commanded a Brigade of Foot, with a Train, to march (notwithſtanding their wearineſſe) to beat them off that paſſe: The foot marched as cheerfully, as if they had not felt a long march; but the Enemy broke down another Bridge, nine miles hence, a little on this ſide *Somerton*, and before we could make up this Bridge to paſſe with our Horſe, they broke down the other Bridge, and made a Breaſt-work; yet our Horſe Commanded by Sir *Robert Pye*, Charged them near the Bridge, and took a Cornet and ſome others Priſoners: but by reaſon of their Dragoones at the Bridge, our Foot and Train being not able to come to us, we could not poſſibly force them thence this night; for the Generall returned, leaving ſix Regiments of Horſe beſides Dragoons, to watch their drawing off, and ſo make up the bridge as faſt as may be: At *Ilcheſter* we cannot paſſe, for the Enemy hath a Garriſon there: I doubt we ſhall not poſſibly engage them, by reaſon we are not in a condition to follow; beſides our great work is yet to do, the ſettlement of the Weſt: This bearer, Maſter *Craven* the Meſſenger, went with us after the Enemy, and can inform you more particularly: I much fear *Gering* will wheel into *Dorſetſhire* to joyne with Malignant *Holles*, and the Club-men.

But *Gorings* diſorderly running away, perhaps may daunt them that they dare not: I believe on *Monday*

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the Generall will go to *Taunton* with a few horſe (where Maſter *Aſh* and Maſter *Moor* are) to ſee what is needfull for that place.

Crookhorne, Iuly 5. *twelve at night.*

The Generall left the Foot that purſued *Goring* at *South-Petherton*, five miles from *Crookhorne*: The Enemies Foot, being not 2500. eight piece of Ordnance, and thirty Carriages, marched by ſix this morning from *Somerton* towards *Wells*, and ſome Club-men with them. The Meſſenger yet ſtaying longer; I adde this, That the Club-men are riſen in *Somerſetſhire*, hath diſarmed an hundred of *Gorings* men, taken their Draughts from them: *Goring* makes a halt about *Long-Sutton*: our whole Army marches this morning to engage them if poſſible; the Bearer can inform the Houſe more.

Crookhorne 6. July, two in the night.

SIR,

PArdon my ſcribling, I am forced to do things in haſte, you have three dayes paſſages together in the incloſed.

Crookhorn, July 7. two in the morning.

Iuſt now another is come out of *Gorings* Army, informes of his ſtay in hopes of the Club-men to joyn with him: I believe our Advance will interrupt him: more hereafter.

FINIS.

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